Minutes of the 26 June Special meeting of the Board of the EHRC

26 June 2024 (08:00 to 09:00)
Virtual via teams

Attending

Commissioners

Kishwer Falkner (Chairwoman), Lesley Sawers (Interim Deputy Chair), Jess Butcher, Joanne Cash, David Goodhart, Alasdair Henderson, Akua Reindorf

Apologies

Martyn Jones, Kunle Olulode, Su-Mei Thompson

Officers

John Kirkpatrick, Deputy Chief Executive
Bill Malloy, Director of Finance, Governance and Planning
Victoria Mearns, Interim Board Secretary
Beverley Reid, Head of Business Improvement

1. Chairwoman's welcome and apologies

1.1 The Chairwoman welcomed attendees to the meeting.

1.2 Apologies were received from Commissioner Thompson, the ARAC Chair and the Acting Wales Chair.

2. Annual Report and Accounts 2023-24

2.1 The Board endorsed the Annual Report and Accounts, subject to agreed amendments. The Board agreed that two sections would be revised and confirmed via correspondence, and that final sign off of the Report is delegated to the Chairwoman and CEO.

2.2 Several drafting comments from Commissioners on the report were noted for inclusion.

2.3 The Chairwoman commented that, notwithstanding the substantial assurance from the internal audits of financial reporting and budgetary controls, and procurement and contract management, the ARAC Chair's Statement might benefit from a greater reference to the experience of our management of financial controls given the experience of the relevant period, and to concerns expressed. However, the Chairwoman defers to ARAC for the approval of the ARAC Chair's Statement.

2.4 The Board agreed to the use of quotes from named individuals subject to their approval.

3. Commissioner and Leadership Declarations of Interest

3.1 The Board noted both Commissioner and Leadership declarations of interest.

3.2 Several Commissioners advised that their declarations require updating. The Corporate Governance team will ensure that these are updated before publication on the EHRC website after the General Election.

4. Interim CEO Update

4.1 The Interim CEO provided an update on the ongoing performance management of a single staff member. The Interim CEO advised that he has been briefed by the P&WC Chair who has been pursuing this matter on the Board's behalf prior to the restoration of delegated authority for performance management of senior staff, and that progress is being made.

5. AOB

5.1 The Chairwoman advised that the Interim CEO would provide a note of delegation for his agreed period of leave.

5.2 With no other business, the Chairwoman closed the meeting.